has since been enforced from July 1,2005, banks are required to appoint a Principal Officer. Principal Officer will be responsible to enforce anti money laundering measures in the bank and report suspicious transactions to Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) for further action.

Increase in prices and inflation

t158. SHRI PK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in price hike has not been equal to the increase in inflation rate during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is affecting the purchasing power of the common man in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)The month-wise Wholesale Price Index (Wl) with base 1993-94=100 and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) with base 1982=100 and the annual inflation rates(%) since April 2004 are given in the following table:—

Table: WPI and CPi(IW) Indices and Annual Inflation Rates(%)

Year / Month (1)	WPI (Base: 1993-94=100) (2)	CPI (Base: 1982=100) (3)	Inflation rate (%) WPI (4)	CPI (5)	Purchasing Power of rupee in paise (1982=100 paise) (6)
2004	180.9	504	4.5	2.2	19.84
May	182.1	508	5.0	28	19.69
Jun	185.2	512	6.7	3.0	19.53
Jul	186.6	517	7.6	3.2	19.34
Aug	188.4	522	8.5	4.6	19.16
Sep	189.4	523	7.9	4.8	19.12
Oct	188.9	526	7.3	4.6	19.01
Nov	190.2	525	7.5	4.2	19.05
Dec	188.8	521	6.8	3.8	19.19
2005	188.6	526	5.5	4.4	19.01
Feb	188.8	525	5.0	4.2	19.05
Mar	189.4	525	5.3	4.2	19.05
Apr	191.6	529	5.9	5.0	18.90
May	192.1	527	5.5	3.7	18.98

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) In general purchasing power of the rupee is estimated as reciprocal of the CPI(IW) by taking the value of rupee as equal to 100 paise ih .1982. The purchasing power of rupee since April 2004 is indicated in columns of the above table.

Absorption of the GTB employees in OBC

159. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Bank Management had submitted its recommendations for absorption of the erstwhile employees of Global Trust Bank in the Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(b)if so, the details of pay scale recommended for each cadre;

(c) whether employees have since been absorbed in terms of the above recommendations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when they would be finally absorbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) had submitted a report to the Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) recommending cadre-wise pay scales.

(c) and (d) As per Amalgamation scheme prepared by RBI, the Oriental Bank of Commerce has been permitted a maximum time period of three years from 14th August, 2004 for absorption and fitment of the pay scales/ grades of employees of erstwhile GTB.

Insurance Sector in Rural Areas

160. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of outreach of the Insurance sector, life and general, separately in rural areas;

(b) what is the ratio of public and private sector insurance companies in this regard;